

District of Columbia Public Schools
2009 Summer Reading List for Rising 2nd Grade Students

Author	Title	Synopsis
Abbott, Tony	Hidden Stairs and the Magic Carpet	Eric and his friends find entry into the world of Droon by using a staircase in Eric's basement.
Adler, David A.	A Picture Book of Helen Keller	A brief biography of the woman who overcame her handicaps of being both blind and deaf.
Alphin, Elaine Marie	A Bear for Miguel	A young girl in El Salvador goes to the market with her father and helps her family obtain necessities by trading a precious item of her own.
Brenner, Martha	Abe Lincoln's Hat	Frontier lawyer Abraham Lincoln cures his absent-mindedness by placing letters, court notes, contracts, and his checkbook in
Browne, Anthony	Little Beauty	A gorilla who knows sign language tells his keepers that he is lonely, they bring him a very special friend.
Buckley, Carol	Just for Elephants	A description of the Elephant Sanctuary in Hohenwald, Tennessee, where elephants have complete freedom to roam the spacious grounds and live much as they would in the wild.
Burleigh, Robert	Hoops	Illustrations and poetic text describe the movement and feel of the game of basketball.
Chandra, Deborah	George Washington's Teeth	A rollicking rhyme portrays George Washington's lifelong struggle with bad teeth.
Cushman, Doug	Inspector Hopper	Inspector Hopper and his perpetually hungry assistant McBugg solve three mysteries for their insect friends.
DeFelice, Cynthia	One Potato, Two Potato	A very poor, humble couple live so simple a life they share everything, until the husband discovers a pot with magical powers buried under the very last potato in the garden.
Di Camillo, Kate	Mercy Watson Goes for a Ride	Mr. Watson's usual Saturday drive in his Cadillac with his favorite pig, Mercy, turns into an adventure when an unexpected passenger shows up in the back seat and Mercy finds herself
Garza, Carmen	In My Family/En mi Familia	The author describes, in bilingual text and illustrations, her experiences growing up in an Hispanic community in Texas.
George, Christine O.	Little Dog and Duncan	An illustrated collection of poems about a large dog and a small one told from the point of view of a little girl.
Hazen, Barbara S.	Digby	While learning about the family dog, Digby, helps a young child understand aging.
Heyer, Marilee	Weaving a Dream	When the beautiful tapestry woven by a poor woman is stolen by fairies, her three sons set out on a magical journey to retrieve it. A retelling of a traditional Chinese tale.
Howe, James	Houndsley and Catina	Houndsley and Catina run into trouble when they decide to prove that they are the best at cooking and writing, respectively.

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Isaacs, Anne	Swamp Angel	Along with other amazing feats, Angelica Longrider, also known as Swamp Angel, wrestles a huge bear, known as Thundering Tarnation, to save the winter supplies of the settlers in
Jenkins, Steve	How Many Ways Can You Catch a Fly?	A look at how different animals, such as a rainbow trout, chimney swift, and slender loris, approach the challenges of catching flies, digging holes, eating clams, and hatching eggs.
Kelly, Katy	Lucy Rose: Here's the Thing about Me	Washington, D.C., her home since her parents separation, where she spends time with her grandparents, makes new friends, and longs to convince her teacher to let her take care of the class pet during a holiday.
Kennedy, Edward	My Senator and Me: A Dog's Eye View of Washington, D.C.	Senator Edward M. Kennedy's dog, Champion Amigo's Seventh Wave, or Splash, introduces readers to Washington, D.C., as he follows the senator around for a day.
Kerley, Barbara	The Dinosaurs of Waterhouse Hawkins	The true story of Victorian artist Benjamin Waterhouse Hawkins, who built the first life-size models of dinosaurs in the hope of educating the world about these awe-inspiring ancient animals.
Krull, Kathleen	Harvesting Hope	A biography of Cesar Chavez, from age ten when he and his family lived happily on their Arizona ranch, to age thirty-eight when he led a peaceful protest against California migrant
Laurence, Daniel	Captain and Matey Set Sail	Despite their frequent disagreements, two pirates share many adventures.
Lobel, Arnold	Frog and Toad Are Friends	Five tales recounting the adventures of two best friends--Frog and Toad.
Macaulay, David	Black and White	New York City teenagers Joy, Maya, and Carolyn struggle with inevitable change when Carolyn, still coping with her mother's death, learns that her father has a girlfriend, and Joy finds out that her wealthy father has lost his high-paying job.
Martin, Bill	Knots on a Counting Rope	A grandfather and his blind grandson, Boy-Strength-of-Blue-Horses, reminisce about the young boy's birth, his first horse, and an exciting horse race.
McCully, Emily A.	Mirette on the High Wire	Mirette learns tightrope walking from Monsieur Bellini, a guest in her mother's boarding house, not knowing that he is a celebrated tightrope artist who has withdrawn from performing because of
Medina, Jane	Tomas Rivera	As a young Mexican American boy in a migrant worker family in Texas, future author Tomás Rivera enjoys going to the library and listening to his grandfather's stories.
Melmed, Laura K.	Capital! Washington DC from A to Z	Rhyming text and illustrations present the sights of Washington, D.C., from A to Z.

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Morse, Scott	Magic Pickle and the Planet of the Grapes	A secret weapon known as Magic Pickle and eight-year-old Jo Jo Wigman work together to defeat Razin', an evil raisin who is trying to turn humans into grapes.
Mortenson, Greg	Listen to the Wind: The Story of Dr. Greg Mortenson	A children's book that tells the story of Dr. Greg Mortenson's promise to build a school in a remote Himalayan village after the villagers saved his life.
Nye, Naomi Shihab	Sitti's Secrets	A young girl describes a visit to see her grandmother in a Palestinian village on the West Bank.
Onyefulu, Ifeoma	A Is for Africa	The author, a member of the Igbo tribe in Nigeria, presents text and her own photographs of twenty-six things, from A to Z, representative of all African peoples.
Patterson, Francine	Koko's Kittens	The real life experience of Koko, a gorilla in California who uses sign language, with a young kitten whom she loved and grieved over when it died.
Polacco, Patricia	Chicken Sunday	To thank Miss Eula for her wonderful Sunday chicken dinners, three children sell decorated eggs to buy her a beautiful Easter
Rathman, Peggy	Ruby the Copycat	Ruby insists on copying Angela, until her teacher helps her discover her own creative resources.
Ringgold, Faith	Tar Beach	A young girl dreams of flying above her Harlem home, claiming all that she sees is herself and family. Based on the author's quilt painting of the same name.
Roop, Peter	Buttons for General Washington	A reconstructed possible mission of the fourteen-year-old spy who carried messages to George Washington's camp in the buttons of his coat during the Revolutionary War.
Ryan, Pam Munoz	When Marian Sang	An introduction to the life of Marian Anderson, extraordinary singer and civil rights activist, who was the first African American to perform at the Metropolitan Opera, whose life and career
Rylant, Cynthia	Henry and Mudge in the Green Time	For Henry and his big dog Mudge, summer means going on a picnic in the park, taking a bath under the garden hose, and going to the top of the big green hill.
Schroeder, Alan	Minty: A Story of Harriet Tubman	Young Harriet Tubman, whose childhood name was Minty, dreams of escaping slavery on the Brodas plantation in the late
Steig, William	Brave Irene	Brave Irene, the dressmaker's daughter, ventures out into a fierce snowstorm to deliver the beautiful ball gown her mother has made for the duchess.
Thompson, Sarah L.	Amazing Snakes	Simple text describes the varieties, habitats, eating habits, and reproduction of snakes.

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VanAllsburg, Chris	The Stranger	The enigmatic origins of the stranger Farmer Bailey hits with his truck and brings home to recuperate seem to have a mysterious relation to the changing season
Van Leeuwen, Jan	Amanda Pig and the Really Hot Day	Amanda Pig and her family and friends try to find different ways to beat the heat.
Weatherford, Carole	Moses: When Harriet Tubman Led Her People to Freedom	A fictionalized account of Harriet Tubman's escape from slavery for freedom in Philadelphia, where she turns her talents to leading others along the Underground Railroad.
Wisniewski, David	The Warrior and the Wise Man	An emperor gives his twin sons, one a warrior and one a wise man, a quest to see which will rule his kingdom.
Woods, Mark	Basketball Legends	A brief overview of the history and rules of basketball and includes profiles of outstanding players.
Zelinsky, Paul O.	Rapunzel	A retelling of a folktale in which a beautiful girl with long golden hair is kept imprisoned in a lonely tower by a sorceress. Includes a note that traces the Italian, French, and German origins of the